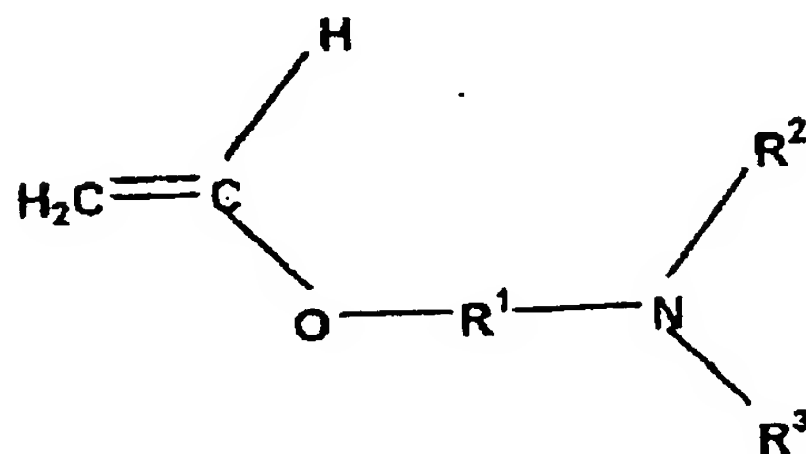


**Abstract:**

The invention relates to antimicrobial polymers obtained by copolymerizing vinyl ethers of the general formula

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in particular 3-aminopropyl vinyl ether, with other aliphatically unsaturated monomers, and to a process for their preparation.

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The polymers may also be prepared by a graft copolymerization of a substrate, giving a covalently bonded coating on the substrate surface.

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The antimicrobial polymers may be used as a microbicidal coating, inter alia on hygiene items or in the medical sector, or else in surface coatings or protective paints.

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